



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,445	09/30/2003	Larry Buenz	3030	2444

31424 7590 03/27/2004

BABCOCK IP LLC
24154 LAKESIDE DRIVE
LAKE ZURICH, IL 60047

EXAMINER

ZARROLI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2839

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,445

Applicant(s)

BUENZ, LARRY

Examiner

Michael C. Zarroli

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 8-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,13,14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/30/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 5-7, 13-14 and, 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lundback et al in view of Harwath.

Lundback discloses a coaxial connector (col. 1 line 1) for use with a coaxial cable (1) having an outer conductor (3), comprising; a clamp nut adapted to fit over the outer conductor (fig. 1), the clamp nut having threads that mate with corresponding threads on a connector body (unnumbered fig. 2); a circular spring like means (retaining ring, 27) adapted to fit over a flared leading edge (9) of the outer conductor; the connector body having an annular wedge surface (30, 35) adapted to mate with the flared leading edge of the outer conductor (fig. 5); the threads drawing the clamp nut towards the connector body (figures 3 to 5), driving the circular spring like means to exert a compression force that urges the flared leading edge into contact with the annular wedge surface (fig. 5); a positive stop (unnumbered section above 24 fig. 2) between the clamp nut and the connector

body (various figures) limiting the compression force to a desired maximum level by preventing further movement of the clamp nut towards the connector body.

Lundback does not disclose a circular coil spring.

Harwath discloses a circular coil spring (85) adapted to fit over a flared leading edge of an outer conductor.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to change out the retaining ring of Lundback with a coil spring as taught by Harwath. The motivation/suggestion for doing so would have been to change the compressive properties of the device. The coil spring of Harwath does basically the same thing as the retaining ring of Lundback.

Regarding claims 2 and 14 Lundback discloses that the positive stop is formed by contact between a back end of the connector body and a shoulder formed in the clamp nut (fig. 2).

Regarding claim 5 Lundback discloses an outer conductor O-ring (18) between the outer conductor and the clamp nut.

Regarding claim 6 Lundback discloses (fig. 1) an inner contact positioned coaxially within and electrically isolated from the connector body by an insulator.

Regarding claim 7 Lundback discloses one of a BNC, Type-N and a DIN interface at a connector end of the connector body (col. 1 lines 4-11).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 8-12 are allowed over the prior art of record.
4. Claims 3-4 and 15 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: A separate thrust collar.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Zarroli whose telephone number is 571-272-2101. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 to 3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael C. Zarroli
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

MCZ
MCZ